Numb. 81.

THE OBSERVATOR.

Of the Confederates taking of Traerback. *The Inſurrection of the Proteſtants in the* Sevennes. *How much it may affect* France. *Of the Declaration of War againſt* France *and* Spain, *Publiſhed at* Leige. *Of the Declaration of War at* Portugal. *The Advantage of Privateers to the* Engliſh *and* French *Nations in that Reſpect. Some farther Animadverſions on the* Whiskers Club.

From Wednesday January the 27th, to Saturday January the 30th, 170⅔.

Obſ. WELL, Honeſt *Country-man*, You are come from *London*; are you full of News?

Country-m. Truly, Maſter *Obſervator*, I have got a pretty deal of News this Journey; but above all, I have met with one Fighting Story in this Seaſon of the Year, which Rejoyces my Heart more than a Cup of *Chriſtmas*-Ale. The Forces of the Allies have Taken the ſtrong Hold of *Traerback* by Storm. Our Soldiers ran over the Fortifications with Sword in Hand, Slaſh'd and Cut the *French* Hounds to pieces. The *French* thought to have got into the Caſtle through a by-Way, but our Men took them upon the ſhort Turn, and Maul'd 'em moſt Confoundedly.

Obſ. This is a very good Story indeed, you'll hear of another ſuch Fighting Story from thoſe Parts in a ſhort time. *Traerback* is a conſiderable Poſt, and is what the Allies wanted at this Juncture. But, Honeſt *Country-man*, Here's in this Paper an Account of a Fighting Bout at St. *Maries* in *Spain*, in which, tho' not above 15 or 16 Men were Kill'd on both ſides, it ſignifies more to the Allies, than taking two or three of the Enemies Holds in *Flanders*. When the *French* and *Spaniards* begin to Kill one another, they muſt both of 'em ſhare the Fate of my Lord *Thomonds* Cocks, they'll never be in a Condition to Fight the Enemy. And I find by the Account of this Action, and the Foreign Prints, that it was no Precipitate Puſh ariſing from the fumes of Wine, or the violence of Paſſion, it was no Rencounter, but a premeditated Enterprize ariſing from a Grudge, conceived ever ſince the Duke *D' Anjou*'s Uſurpation; and the *Spaniards* are ſo Jealous of the *French* by reaſon of their Inſolencies, that they keep continual Guard on the Coaſt, to keep the *French* on Board their Ships. If we conſider the Effects of *Slavery*, we ſhall find Tyranny the moſt Stupifying thing in the Univerſe; like *Opium*, it deprives Men of their Reaſon, and makes 'em Inferior to Brutes. Had the *Spaniards* a true Notion of Freedom, they would have believed themſelves as free a People as thoſe of *England*, or any other Nation of the World, and upon the Demiſe of their King, would have known it had been in their Power to have ſettled the Succeſſion to their Crown, and thereby would have avoided the heavy Fate they now lie under in being Subjected to the Government of a Foreign Force. But ſuch is the Folly of thoſe *diſ-ſpirited Vaſſals*, that they know not how to accept of the reaſonable Offers of Freedom; otherwiſe they would have joyn'd with the Queen of *Englands* Forces ſent thither to reſcue them from the Tyranny of *Lewis* the 14th. But ſo blind are they in Reſpect to *Liberty*, and ſo Bigotted to their Prieſts hood, that they had rather be Damn'd to Chain and Fetters by their Prieſts, then be ſav'd from *Slavery* by thoſe they call *Hereticks*; they ſeem uneaſie under the Burden of their new Maſters, when all they can do, is to take *Sancho Pancha*'s Advice, they muſt ſhrug up their Shoulders and cry *Patienza*.

Country-m. Here's another true Relation, which, I ſuppoſe, makes not very well for the Power of *France*, the Proteſtants, to a great number, are gathered together in Arms in the *Sevennes*, in Defence of *Religion* and *Property*, and are joyned by a conſiderable number of *Papiſts*.

Obſ. This Relation has for ſome time been confirmed in the Foreign Prints; Inſurrections are the ſame in the Body Politick, as the Leproſie to the Body Natural; which begins in a Point, but over-ſpreads the whole Compoſitum; When Men are exaſperated thro' Injur'd *Liberty*, they ſet no Bounds to their Outrages, which ſeldom terminate, but in the total *Deſtruction* or *Recovery* of their *Rights*; and the *French* Proteſtants are ſo well acquainted with their Kings Religious Obſervance of *Treaties*, *Solemn Edicts*, *Pacts* and *Covenants*, as never more to capitulate with ſo perfidious a *Tyrant*. If we reflect on the Perſecutions of the *Proteſtants* in *Piedmont*, the Valleys of the *Lucerne*, and the Riſe of the *Vaudois*; We may be aſſured what mighty things have happened from ſmall numbers of Men heated to an Inſurrection, on the account of Religion. The *Vaudois* could never be deſtroyed, tho' often repulſed by vaſt numbers of Diſciplin'd Forces. The Hiſtory of theſe People is full of Wonders, and ſtrange Amazing Inſtances of Divine Providence: Who could have thought that ſo ſmall a number of Ordinary People, headed by a Bare-Footed Fiſherman, at *Naples*, ſhould in 14 days make a Revolution, to the Deſtruction of the Government. The People at Arms in the *Sevennes*, have taken the beſt Opportunity that could be to recover their Rights, when their Tyrant is ſo much embaraſs'd by Allies ſo Potent and Numerous: The *Vaudois* have ſupply'd them with veterane Officers, well Diſciplin'd in Martial Affairs, and when once they begin to move, they will gather like a *Snow-Ball!* I expect much from theſe People; for God uſually helps thoſe who endeavour to help themſelves, and Men who riſe in Defence of *Liberty*, *Property* and *Religion*, ſeldom want his Aſſiſtance; This we have more than once experienc'd in *England*, but we may make one Obſervation of the preſent ſtrength of *Lewis* XIV. that he is not yet in a condition to Reduce thoſe People, tho' he has been ſo long employ'd

ploy'd in raiſing of Forces for that purpoſe. He has already drain'd his Country, in compleating his Troops, in the Service againſt the Allies in *Flanders* and *Italy*, ſo that we cannot expect he can ſend any Troops againſt theſe Men, but ſuch as are the Refuſe of his Vaſſals. What News elſe have you got?

Country-m. There is a Declaration of War Publiſhed at *Liege*, againſt *France* and the Duke *D' Anjou*. Pray, Sir, what is the Reaſon that ſome Powers in the Confederacy. only call the Grandſon of *Lewis* XIV. the Duke *D' Anjou*, and others give him the Title of King of *Spain*.

Obſ. You very well know, that ſome People have more Breeding than others; ſome Folk have ſuch an Affection for Crown'd Heads (let 'em come to their Crowns by never ſuch Indirect Means) that they eſteem 'em little leſs than Gods, they are Kings *Jure Divino*, tho they rob their Subjects of their *Property*, and build their *Thrones* on the Ruines of *Native Freedom*. The People of *Leige* have Declared War againſt the D. *D' Anjou* his own proper Title, without any Reſpect to the Crown he has Uſurped, or rather ſtolen from the *Spaniſh* Vaſſals. The Grandſon of *France* is ſtill the Duke *D' Anjou* in their Senſe, and they eſteem him no other than a *Free-Booter*, a *Moſs-Trooper*, a *Highway-man*, a *Land-Pyrate*, a *Uſurper* of a Regal Dignity, to which he has not the leaſt Pretence; and whoever give him any other Title, are Enemies to the *Common Cauſe*, and are in the *Grand Alliance* againſt the Liberties of *Europe*: And tho' the State of *Leige* may ſeem a ſmall Power in Reſpect of that of *France*, yet a Lyon has been done to Death by *Ants*; and the Powers united againſt *France*, are in their Conjunction ſo formidable, that the Gallick Empire ſeems to be in a tottering Condition.

Country-m. The Poſture of Affairs in *Portugal* give us the greateſt Aſſurances that Kingdom will declare forthwith a War againſt *France* and *Spain* tho' the Partizans of *France* make their boaſts, that the Rupture will begin on the part of *France*, I think nothing can be more for the Advantage of the *Common Cauſe* than ſuch a Rupture.

Obſ. In ſome Reſpects nothing can be more Beneficial to the *Grand Alliance*: For by this Means the Confederates will have Free *Ingreſs* and *Egreſs* in the Ports of *Portugal*, which are adjoyning to the Enemies Territories; they will there have an Opportunity of Landing the Forces Employ'd againſt the Crown of *Spain*; from whence by eaſie Marching they may invade that Kingdom: The *French* will have another Advantage over the Confederates, in regard of their *Privateers* will have the better Means of Purchaſe, the Merchants Ships of *Portugal*, thereby becoming *Free Prize*. The *French* not being able to conteſt the Empire of the Ocean with their Ships of War, will employ their Naval Strength in private Expeditions; ſo that the only way to prevent their Piracies at Sea, will be to keep a ſufficient Number of *Cruizers* of the Confederate Fleet abroad, to effect which, the Encouragement of *Engliſh Privateers*, will be a great Means. Too great Encouragement can never be given to our Private Men of War, ſuppoſe they have what they get to themſelves, the Nation will be abundantly enrich'd by that Proviſion, and if their Wounded and Diſabled Sailors had the Benefit of theſe diſabled in Ships of the State, it would yet be a greater couragement for them to venture Life Limb in the Service. We muſt take the le of our Weapon, from that of our Enemies, there is no Reaſon to Fight our Enemy at advantage. If they get all and we get li their *Privateers* will be *Lords*, and ours wi *Beggars*. The Encouragement of our *Priva* can by no means be a Prejudice to the Gov ment, or the Nations Intereſt, for if they h all the Purchaſe they get, ſave the Duties p the Queen, as Cuſtoms, which is as much her Majeſty would get if the ſame Commodi were imported as *Merchandize*; and what t get will have a ſpeedy Circulation in our K dom, for every Body knows the Seamen are Hoarders.

Country-m. Sir I call'd at your Printers to Buy your *Confeſſion of Faith*, *The Account the Principles and Conſtitution of the* Engliſh F ing Squadron. He told me, *That three of* Whiskers *had been with him, and demanded of h By what Authority he Printed any thing aga their Apoſtle* Joſeph Jacobs? They look'd ver Terribly at him, but he was no more Fright than Sir *John Moore* was at the Sight of t Hare, when ſhe approached his Lordſhip as was ſlinking the Hedge.

Obſ. By the ſame Authority that *Joſe Jacobs*, Steward to the *Whiskers Club*, did, what he call'd a Sermon on the Thankſgiving Reflect on Perſons, and on one in particular whoſe Books he is not Worthy to carry after him: Do I reflect on *Joſeph Jacobs*, and his A ſociates? He is the juſt Object of every Man's Cenſure; for Modes and Faſhions in Religion, are diſputable as are Faſhions in Cloaths; the Religious Taylors can plead no Preſcription any more than the Limb-Trimmers of Mortal Bodies: Dr. *Jacobs* has no occaſion to be Angry with me for my Reflections on him for by that Means I have ſent abundance of Cuſtomers to his Shop; and let him conſider that he paid my Printer nothing for his Advertiſement; when the *Man-Tyger* and other Monſters were imported from *Foreign parts* have been Advertis'd at their own proper Charge, but we thought it beneficial to the Publick to let the Citizens of *London* know, where an *Engliſh* Cat of the Mountain with ſwinging Smellers was to be ſhown in a Pulpit.

If Dr. *Jacobs* thinks himſelf agrieved, he may take his Courſe at *Law*: He is under the Protection of the Laws of *England*, in his Civil Capacity: But I much Queſtion whether his Party is included in the Act of Tolleration. I do not pretend to be an Infallible Expounder of the *Engliſh* Laws. But it ſeems to me, That *Act of Tolleration* had Reſpect only to ſuch Religions, as were then in *England*, and not ſuch as ſhould afterwards Spring up: *Enthuſiaſm* is to be tollerated in no Chriſtian Country, without great Detriment to the State; every Man in *England* has as much a Right to Erect a new Order, or Sect of Devotees as Dr. *Jacobs* Himſelf; and if ſo, we ſhall have a Hodg Podge of Divinity in *England*. We muſt not allow ſo many Coblers in Religion, as Honeſt *Hudibraſs* ſays,

As if Religion was Intended
Only on Purpoſe to be Mended.

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